IMPRESSIONS

FROM

MOUNT ATHOS

FOR VIOLIN, FRENCH HORN AND PIANO

CLIVE STRUTT

Cover Illustration: A view of Mount Athos from Pantocrator Monastery photographed by Clive Strutt

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Contents

Prefatory Notes on *Athos Ethos* and *Impressions from Mount Athos* by the Composer ……iv

1. Pèlerinage I: *The Well on the Way of the Bey* [6′ 00″]…..……...1

2. Pèlerinage II: *Walking to the Hermitage* [4′ 03″] ……12

3. Nocturne: *St. George's Night on the Holy Mountain* (From the Tower of Koutloumousiou Monastery) [11′ 00″]…….……..18

4. Threnody: *Monastic Funeral Cortège* (Vatopedi Monastery) [3′ 44″]…….…….28

Prefatory Notes on *Athos Ethos* and *Impressions from Mount Athos* by the Composer

Composer Clive Strutt on a balcony at Pantocrator Monastery, Mount Athos

The composition of the Cycle of Seven Songs eventually titled ***Athos Ethos*** evolved over a number of years, and started on 6 May 2004 when I had a memorable visual and auditory experience at Koutloumousiou Monastery, in the middle of the night. At about 1.15 am I went to the bathroom which was situated high in a tower, with a window overlooking a magnificent view across the wooded wilderness towards the Holy Mountain itself. I wrote the following in my journal at the time:

> *I experienced possibly the most beautiful moment of my life — the full moon was high in the sky, & the landscape was divided into dark shadow between the monastery and the skyline of hills, and silvery misty light beyond — utter stillness and beauty. There was a background sound of running water in a river, & all the time a nightingale sang, with another bird [unidentified, but possibly another nightingale] — song of such unbelievable beauty that it touched me very deeply. I stood watching and listening, captivated, for 15 minutes. Just at one stage as I thought of going I saw a four-footed & be-tailed shadow flitting across the whitish flat roof below — a cat. It paused in the shadow of a structure protruding from the roof, & then ran on out of sight round the corner. Then, another cat did the same, following the first one! I returned to bed & meditated on what I had seen.*

As a result of this experience I decided to try to embody it in a composition, and to

get a text of words I communicated the whole experience to Vincent Berquez, a French poet and painter resident in London who was also a member of The Friends of Mount Athos (FoMA). He has like myself also made visits to the Holy Mountain, and he wrote the poetic texts which embody the experiences that I had, and that I communicated to him. These I set to music for mezzo-soprano and piano, and entitled the work ***Three Athonite Impressions***. We were hoping that perhaps a performance of the songs could be arranged, and as an addition to the project we enlisted another FoMA member, John Andrews from the USA, to create some short films embodying his impressions of the songs. The project expanded to seven songs, along with additional films, and I conceived the new title *Athos Ethos*. So far no public performance has materialised, but a performance of the *Three Athonite Impressions* was given in the home of the pianist Julian Jacobsen, and recorded, with the original intention that they should be a sample of the whole work to try to secure interest in getting sponsorship for the project. The additional four songs that go to make up *Athos Ethos* were settings of poems that Vincent had already written on his own account, and their titles and numbered positions in the sequence are:

No. I *A Week before Mount Athos*
No. III *Hermitage*
No. VI *A Night in Thessaloniki*
No. VII *A Week after Mount Athos*

These four songs had not been learnt by the performers, but the other three songs, which formerly comprised the *Three Athonite Impressions* before being included in the larger seven-song set *Athos Ethos*, are:

No. II *The Well*
No. IV NOCTURNE: *St. George's Night on the Holy Mountain*
No. V THRENODY: *Funeral at Vatopedi*

The well in No. II is a ruin on the ridge path not far from a monument known as Χέρα (*Chera)* named after the two stone hands on two signs, one of which points to the path to Vatopedi Monastery and the other to the Bulgarian Monastery of Zographou. THRENODY*: Funeral at Vatopedi* was inspired by my being present at an actual funeral there of an elderly monk — specifically the procession from the *katholikon* to the cemetery and the interment (I was not present at the actual vigil or funeral service). The tolling of the single bell during the cortège is reproduced in the piano part. The inspiration for No. IV has already been described above.

The recording was made on 3 May 2012 in the flat at Falcon Wharf, Lombard Road, Battersea (in London) belonging to the pianist Julian Jacobsen, with the soprano Alice Privett.

It was in 2019 that an opportunity arose for me to compose a ***TRIO for French Horn, Violin, and Piano*** – the same instrumentation as was used by Lennox Berkeley, my composition professor at the Royal Academy of Music between 1961 and 1964 - for his own piece, and I decided to make a transcription of four of the songs from *Athos Ethos*: nos. II, III, IV, and V mentioned above. The titles were amended as follows:

1. Pèlerinage I: *The Well on the Way of the Bey*
2. Pèlerinage II: *Walking to the Hermitage*
3. Nocturne: *St. George's Night on the Holy Mountain* (From the Tower of Koutloumousiou Monastery)
4. Threnody: *Monastic Funeral Cortege* (Vatopedi Monastery).

Clive Strutt

IMPRESSIONS from MOUNT ATHOS for Trio of Violin, Horn & Piano

CLIVE STRUTT

1. Pelerinage I: "The Well on the Way of the Bey"

Un poco allegro (mm ♩=72)

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

Ped.

(7)

simile

cresc.

dim.

(13)

normale

Un poco ritenuto...

(19) A Tempo

5=4

A Tempo

25

Sul D, A

Sul A, E

Sul D, A

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

mp

cresc.

sfp

sf

cresc.

mf

dim.

p

pp

31

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

p

mf

cresc.

mf

pp

cresc.

loco

Ottava bassa

Ped.

36

Meno mosso (♩=mm 64)

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

dim.

p

mp

f

cresc.

III

Ped.

45

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

cresc.

ff

dim.

mp

f

III

diminuendo

6=4

loco

Ottava bassa

49

Vn. mp cresc. f dim. molto pp

Sul G

cresc. mf p

Hn. mp cresc. f dim. molto pp

un pochiss. cresc. p mf p

Pf. mp cresc. f pp

poco cresc. p dim. pp

3 misterioso

Una corda

Ped. Tre corde

55

Vn. (pp)

Sul G

Sul D

cresc. mp

Sul A f

Hn. p cresc. un poco

Pf. p cresc. mp

60

Vn. (4) mf

Sul G

Sul A

Sul E

cresc. f

PIZZ

Hn. mp p mp cresc. f dim.

Pf. f dim. mf mp cresc. f dim.

66

Arco

Vn. dim. mf

PIZZ

Arco

mp

lunga

breve

lunga breve

PIZZ

Arco

p sotto voce

Hn. (dim.) mp

p sotto voce

Pf. (dim.) pp

morendo

lunga

breve

ottava bassa

loco

72

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

mp 6=4 mf f pp subito p

cresc. f mp pp subito

cresc. f mp cresc. f pp subito

77

Vn.

f PIZZ Arco sffz dim. p

Hn.

f f dim. p

8va loco sffz

Pf.

cresc. dim. p

85

Vn.

cresc. poco a poco ff dim. mp p poco cresc. mp

Hn.

cresc. poco a poco ff mp p

Pf.

cresc. poco a poco ff mf p cresc. poco a poco

90

Vn.

PIZZ Arco f dim. e rit p lunga trem. sul pont. ppp cresc

Hn.

p cresc. f dim. e rit. lunga lunga al niente

Pf.

mp p f dim. e rit

(95) Adagissimo (m.m. ♩ = 72)

Vn. coll'arco normale — pp subito — mf cresc. — f — Sul A, D

Hn. ppp cres. — f — pp subito — mf — f

Pf. sub. pp — ottava bassa — (loco)

(102)

Vn. cresc. — ff — dim. — mf

Hn. cresc. — ff dim. — f — dim. — mf

Pf. cresc. — f — ff — dim. — mf — mp — Ped.

(109) Sul G — p cresc. — mp — (con sordino)

Vn. mp — dim. — p — mf

Hn. mp — p — mp — mf — p

Pf. mp

(116) con sord.

Vn. pp espress.

Quasi lontano

Hn. dim. — p

Pf. pp — Ped.

123

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

sul D

(senza sord.)

Ped. *

Ottava bassa

16va bassa

2. Pelerinage II: "Walking to the Hermitage"

Andante lentamente, solenne e tranquillo

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

mp

mf

pp

cresc. mp

mf

cresc.

6

ancora più forte ff

cresc f

f ff

meno f

ancora più forte ff

12

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

mf dim. mp p

dim. mp dim. bb mf

gra.

L.H. mf mp mf mp mf

19

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

p cresc. mf cresc. ff

cresc. ff

cresc. ff

Ped.

24

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

mf subito

mf subito

mf subito

(Ped)

30

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

PIZZ. ARCO dim. ppp f

lunga

A TEMPO dim. mf

gliss. f

A TEMPO

A TEMPO

mf

colla parte

un poco cresc. mf

Molto meno mosso (m.m. ♩=52)

35

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

8va

loco

dim.

p

40

un poco cresc.

mf

-16-

45

Pizz

Arco

cresc.

f

dim.

pp

Ped.

50

ottava bassa

sub. p

55
Vn.
Hn.
Pf.
f
mf
cresc.
m.d.
Ped.
59
8va
ff
ossia
(cresc.)

3. Nocturne: "St. George's Night on the Holy Mountain"
(From the Tower of Koutloumousiou Monastery)

Adagio di molto (m.m. ♩=108)
fermata lunga
poco sf
Una Corda..
16va
ppp legato
(Tre Corde)
Una Corda,
Pedale
Tre corde
Ped.
6
16va
8va
loco
(loco)

9

Pf.

m.d.

m.s.

Una Corda

Ped.

14

i fermate lungo di molto

Pf.

m.d.

Una corda Tre corde

Una corda

Tre corde

Una corda

Tre corde

Una corda

Ped.

Tre Corde

Ped.

Ped.

8va

18

Pf.

cresc.

pp legato

8va

loco

Tre corde →

Ped.

21

Vn.

CON SORD.

Tremolando

Hn.

8va

loco

Pf.

25

Vn.

dim. - - - niente

Trem.

Sul Tasto

mod. ord.

(sempre con sord.)

Hn.

ppp dolce

Pf.

Una corda

Ped.

Tre corde

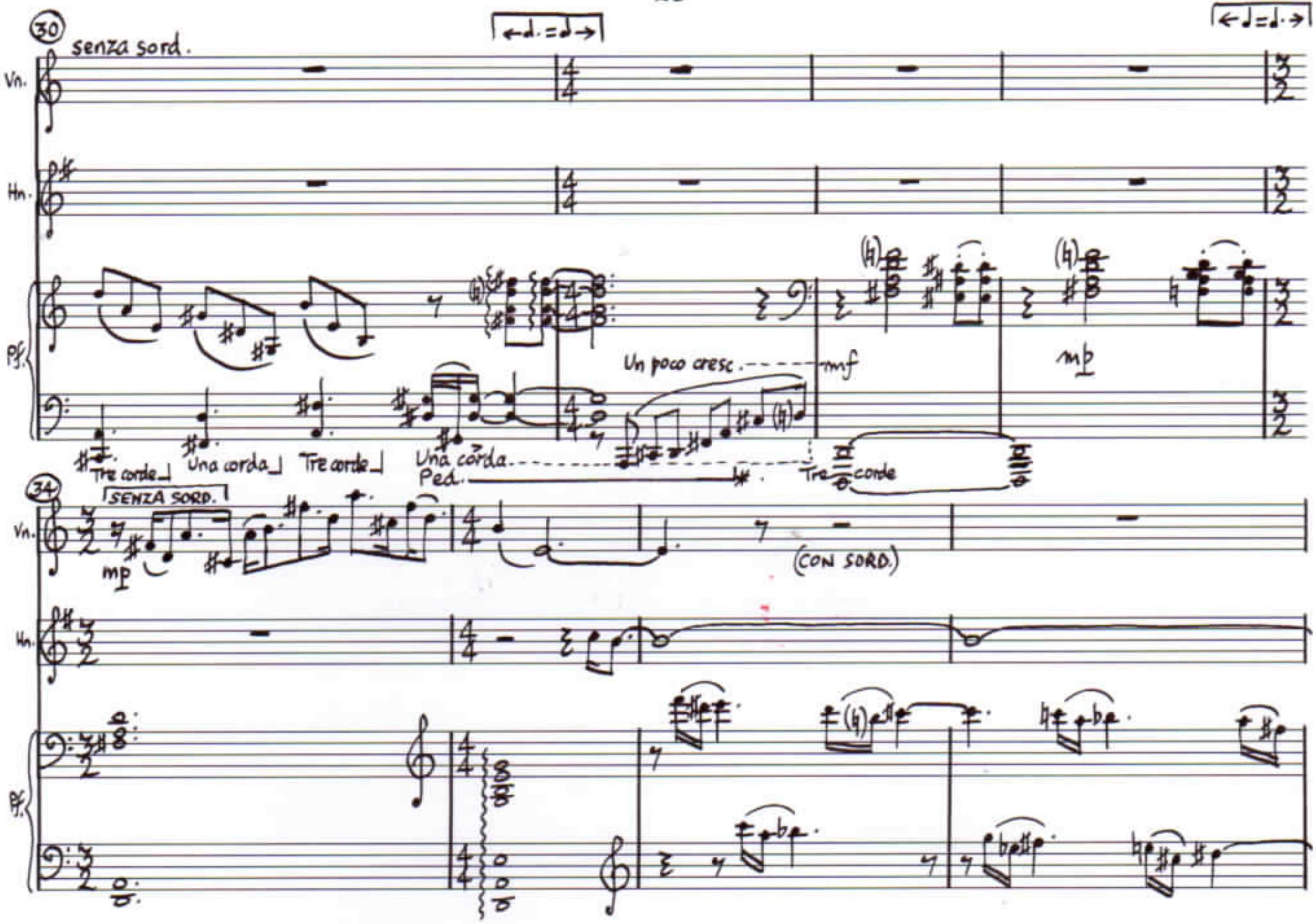
Una corda

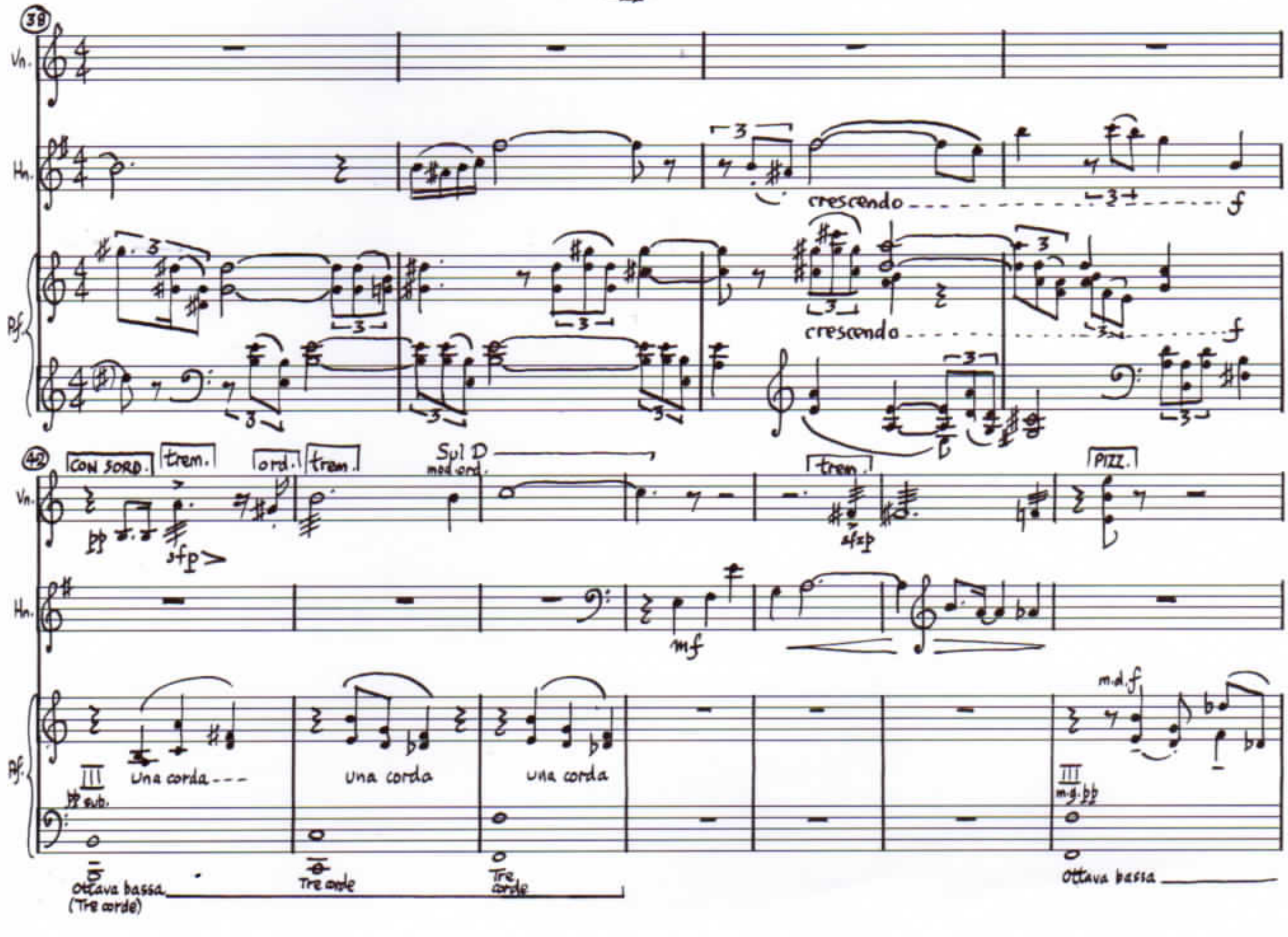
Ped.

Tre corde

Una corda

Ped.


30
senza sord.
Vn.
Hn.
Pf.
Un poco cresc.
mf
mp
Tre corde
Una corda
Tre corde
Una corda
Ped.
Tre corde
34
SENZA SORD.
mp
(CON SORD.)


38
Vn.
Hn.
Pf.
crescendo
f
crescendo
f
42
CON SORD.
trem.
ord.
trem.
Sul D
mod. ord.
sfp
trem.
sfzp
PIZZ.
mf
m.d. f
III
pp sub.
Una corda
una corda
una corda
III
m.g. pp
Ottava bassa
(Tre corde)
Tre corde
Tre corde
Ottava bassa

49

murmurando ma ben sentito: con alcuno licenza, alla recitativo

Sul D

, A Tempo (senza sord.)

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

Colla parte

, A Tempo

, A Tempo

Ottava bassa

54

senza sord.

(loco)

trem. sul pont.

mod. ord.

CON SORD.

dim.

Ottava bassa

60

normale

cresc.

mf cresc.

mf sub.

67

mf cresc.

cresc.

Ottava bassa

Una corda

70
Vn.
Hn.
Pf.
(Una corda)
Tre corde
ord.
Sul G
(dim.)
dim.
74
Vn.
Hn.
Pf.
flutter
ord.
8va
loco
dim.

80
Vn.
Hn.
Pf.
(dim.)
Sul tasto
misterioso
cres.
silently depress key to sound overtone
gva
86
cresc.
PIZZ
Arco
G.P.
Vn.
Hn.
Pf.
Ped.

nat.harm. art.harm.

91

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

normale

mp

mf

cresc. f

mp

cresc. mf

loco

dim. mp

ottava bassa

96

Vn.

mf

ff

8va

con alcuna licenza

dim. ppp

Hn.

mf

sub. mf

Pf.

cresc. f

ff

mf

Colla parte

Una Corda

Ped.

Andante lentamente e solenne assai

(m.m. ♩. = ♩ = 80)

4. Threnody: "Monastic Funeral Cortege" (Vatopedi Monastery)

Vn.

Sul G, D

Sul D, A

Sul A

mf

Hn.

mp

mf

Pf.

m.d. f

m.g. sempre

cresc.

Ottava bassa

8

Vn.

Hn.

mp

f

Pf.

loco

15

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

22

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

Sol G,D

mp

cresc.

dim.

29

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

trem.

cresc

mf

f

ff

mod. ord.

7=6

34

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

38

Vn. semplice

Hn.

Pf.

47

Vn.

Hn.

Pf.

56

Vn. Arco

Hn.

Pf.

Ottava bassa

loco

IMPRESSIONS from MOUNT ATHOS for Trio of Violin, Horn & Piano

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VIOLIN

1. Pelerinage I: "The Well on the Way of the Bey"

Un poco allegro (m.m. ♩=72)

mf f dim. p mp mf f

10 mp (simile) normale cresc. mf dim. mp p

14 un poco rit. a tempo p sub. 5=4 mp mf mp f Sul D, G dim.

25 Sul D, A cresc. Sul A, E Sul D, A pp p

33 mf dim. p Volti

39 Meno mosso (m.m. ♩=64) p mp f pp cresc. ff dim.

49 mp cresc. f dim. molto pp p Sul G cresc. mf p pp Sul D Sul A cresc. mp

59 Sul A Sul G Sul A Sul E Pizz Arco mf cresc. f dim. mf

67 Pizz Arco lunga breve Pizz Arco 6=4 mp p sotto voce

74 mf f ppp subito f Pizz

82 Arco cresc. poco a poco ff dim. mp p sfffz dim. p poco cresc. mp

90 Pizz Arco lunga tremolo sul pont. coll'arco normale f dim. e rit. p ppp cresc. f

Adagissimo (m.m. ♩=72)

96 ppp subito Sul A, D mf cresc. f cresc.

104 ..... ff dim. ..... p mp Sul G .... (con sord)

TON SORD. pp espress.

127 Sul D

2. Pelerinage II: "Walking to the Hermitage"

Andante lentamente, solenne e tranquillo

p mp mf cresc. f

8 ancora più forte ... ff mf dim.

15 mp ..... p Volti

19 p cresc. ..... mf cresc. ..... ff mf subito

26 tr PIZZ Arco

lunga A Tempo tr gliss. dim. ..... mf Molto Meno Mosso (♩=52)

37 (8va) loco gva mf

45 PIZZ Arco cresc. ..... f

52 PIZZ Arco sub.p mf

58 cresc. ..... f ..... ff

3. Nocturne: "St. George's Night on the Holy Mountain"
(From the Tower of Koutloumousiou Monastery)

Adagio di molto (m.m. ♪=108)
(CON SORD.)

18 cue pf. 8va ... loco | CON SORD. Tremolando | dim. ... niente | Tremolando sul tasto

29 modo ordinario (sempre con sord.) | senza sord. | senza sord. mp

37 (CON SORD.) | CON SORD. tremolando | mod. ord. | trem. | Sul D mod. ord. | trem. | PIZZ

51 murmurando ma ben sostito: con alcuno licenza alla recit. | Sul D | A Tempo (senza sord.)

Volti

55 SENZA SORD. | tremolando sul pont. | mod. ord. | mf cresc. ... f

67 mf cresc. ... f | subito | 8va | mp

70 (loco) | sim. | ord. | Sul G

76 f | mf | dim. ... ppp | pp misterioso

83 cresc. ... mp ... mf | nat. harm. | art. harm. | cresc. ... f

88 PIZZ | Arco | G.P. | mp

96 mf | ff | con alcuno licenza | 8va | dim. ... ppp

4. Threnody: "Monastic Funeral Cortege" (Vatopedi Monastery)

Andante lentamente e solenne assai (n.m. ♩.=♩=80)

12 Sul G, D — Sul D, A — Sul A — mf

24 Sul G, D — tren. cres. — mf — f — mod. ord. — 7=6 — ff

34 semplice — p — cresc.

42 f — p subito — mf — cresc. — ff

51 PIZZ — Arco

Un poco ritenuto — sim. — mod. ord.

IMPRESSIONS from MOUNT ATHOS for Trio of Violin, Horn & Piano

CLIVE STRUTT

1. Pelerinage I: "The Well on the Way of the Bey"

FRENCH HORN

Un poco allegro (m.m. ♩=72)

in F

mf f mp mf f dim.

10 mp mf dim. mp 1 Un poco 1 ritenuto....

18 A TEMPO pp p mf > mp cresc. mf dim. sfp sfp sf

28 sf 1 p cresc. mf

Meno mosso (mm ♩=64)

36 dim. p 2 p mp f

47 ff > f dim. mp f dim. molto pp un pochiss. cresc. p mf > p

2

Volti

58 p cresc. un poco mp > p 3 1 mp cresc. f dim. mp 3 lunga breve

69 p sotto voce cresc. f mp pp subito

76 f dim. p

85 cresc. poco a poco ff mp > p p cresc

92 lunga f dim. e rit. ppp cres. f Adagissimo (m.m. ♪=72) pp subito 1

99 1 mf f cresc. ff dim. f p mf > mp

110 dim. p mf dim. p Quasi lontano

120 3 pp

2. Pelerinage II: "Walking to the Hermitage"

Andante lentamente, solenne e tranquillo

pp — meno f — f < ff

dim. mp — dim. pp — mf

cresc. ff — legato — mf subito

A TEMPO — mf — dim. p — Molto meno mosso (m.m. ♩=52)

un poco cresc. mf

cresc. f — dim. pp — f subito < mf

f — mf cresc. f — ossia — ff

3. Nocturne: "St. George's Night on the Holy Mountain" (From the Tower of Koutloumousiou Monastery)

Adagio di molto (m.m. ♪=108)

Cue: violin — ppp dolce

cresc. f — mf

A Tempo — Colla parte

f — ff

CON SORD. — NORMALE (senza sord.)

mp — p — pp

cresc. mp ff — mf subito

FLUTTER — MOD. ORD. — sfz p dim. ppp

sffz pp — mp — G.P.

91

100

Andante lentamente
e solenne assai (m.m. ♩.=♩=80)

4. Threnody: "Monastic Funeral Cortege" (Vatopedi Monastery)

13

27

31

40